

a 5% increase last year and they are not sure this year, about a 2 to 3 percent increase in Fremont, 5% last year, and by and large what we are finding is a range right around 5% give or take a few percentage that are provided for increases in local subdivisions and in private industry and the comparison that I have passed out that I think you should have just have gotten in terms of inflation that state employees salaries show, except for the years 1975-76 and 76-77, employees of the State of Nebraska have never had their salary increases keep up with inflation. We have been always below inflation and, thus, on the other part of the chart I passed out, you will see that if you look at 72-73 salaries as the base year our present situation would have us down close to about 80 some percent in terms of our buying power because of the fact our salary increases haven't kept up with inflation and I think that is what we are really trying to do. A 2½% increase isn't even going to be keeping up with inflation, let alone getting ahead or providing some incentive beyond that. I think Senator Kilgarin's chart that shows us pretty close to the bottom in terms of our comparative full time state employees salaries clearly indicates we are behind and that the state employees are deserving of an increase and that we should be up front and deal with it in the fashion that Senator Kilgarin has provided. Senator Warner has an alternative. I have an alternative. But in the end I think some action has to be taken to provide a salary increase for these state employees. They deserve it. The figures and the information I have indicate it is well justified and I would ask your serious consideration of it.

PRESIDENT: Senator DeCamp. May the Chair ask is there anyone wishing to speak against Senator Kilgarin's motion? If not, I have no other lights on so that I will ask Senator Kilgarin to close. You may close. No one spoke against your amendment.

SENATOR KILGARIN: That is because it is such a popular amendment, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT: Well, we will see how it comes out.

SENATOR KILGARIN: Ya, close for unanimous. I mean we could probably do this on a voice vote. I would hope that you would have listened to some of the comments made. I think the state employees deserve a raise. There is no way the way that LB 628 is written to be fair about voting whether or not to give those state employees a raise, not across the board because some of those agencies might be left out. We might pick up vetoes that we don't necessarily believe should be overridden. So I am looking at